

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

REPORT

SUBJECT Tito's Policy

DATE DISTR. 8 July 1955

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

DATE ACQUIRED

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The political development in Yugoslavia, initiated after Tito's return from India, is approaching a crucial point. Even his closest collaborators follow the bold game played by Tito with some scepticism and fear that he might get hurt. The fact that he negotiated with Moscow on the visit of a Soviet delegation in Belgrade was only known to five or six men of his entourage. The Yugoslav public is bewildered at this policy and generally feels that Tito risks a great deal.

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2. Tito is believed to have proposed to the Soviets not the neutralization but the pacification of the Balkans. He will probably declare his readiness to mediate between Moscow on the one side, and Ankara and Athens on the other. The Balkan Pact is not to be scrapped but is to be given a different purpose. According to this version, Turkey and Greece might continue as members of NATO, but tensions between the USSR and Turkey might be lessened by a reduction of military forces stationed along the Soviet-Turkish frontier. Tito hopes that the Turks will accept such a settlement, especially if they are offered favorable trade terms. In regard to Yugoslavia, Tito also hopes to conclude a favorable trade agreement with the Soviets, which would make him more independent from the West. Tito is said not to be willing to negotiate with the Soviets on his plans of establishing a Balkan federation. He is convinced that time is working for him. He accepted the risk of a deterioration in the relations between his country and the West because he is firmly convinced that Yugoslavia is bound to play a dominant role in South-East Europe. He also believes that he is superior to the rather mediocre politicians of the West.

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3. Tito returned from India and his talks with Nehru, U Nu, and Nasser firmly convinced of the feasibility of establishing a so-called "third force". He also appears to believe that Moscow is going through a period of relative weakness and that this period should be exploited in an effort to roll the Soviets back from some advanced position in Europe. During the

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first direct negotiations between Soviet and Yugoslav representatives, it was noticed with surprise that the Soviets were ready to make far-reaching concessions. Thereupon Tito increased his demands, a tactic which brought about even more concessions from the Soviets,

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